

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
June 7, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the District Meeting Room at the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on June 7, 2017.

Board President Elizabeth Baker called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Adequate written notice of this meeting of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education was sent to the Township and Village Clerks, the Libraries, The Star Ledger, the News Record and all schools.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith

Absent: Mrs. Wright

8 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Baker opened the meeting with a statement regarding the urgency and importance of having the leadership of a Superintendent in place immediately following the retirement of Dr. Ramos. Ms. Baker explained the selection process for finding an Interim Superintendent and the Boards plan continue working on the Strategic Plan as well as other important projects and strengthening relationships with the community

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sonya Artis Maplewood	Shared the content and follow-up of a meeting with Dr. Ramos, members of the Board and other administrators, so that the Board is fully informed of the decisions the Seth Boyden School community is taking on critical issues in our District and the changes expected moving forward.
Elissa Malespina South Orange	Spoke in support of the Seth Boyden School community, urging the Board to help make things equitable and accessible for all students. Thanked the Board for issuing a statement regarding the Superintendent and hopes there is Transparency with the new superintendent search.
Josh Kleinbaum South Orange	Concerned about bussing policy. States his child was denied bussing although they are within the 1.5 miles distance required by law

to receive bussing. Plans to follow-up with Mr. Roth to have matter addressed.

James Davis
South Orange

Thanked Dr. Ficarra for accepting the role of Interim Superintendent and recommended Dr. Ficarra reach out to community groups that were formed after recent events that have taken place in the district.

DISCUSSION

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Board members expressed their excitement to have Dr. Ficarra join the District. The collaboration of Dr. Ficarra's experience and the Boards willingness to listen is what is needed to move the district forward.

Dr. Ficarra stated he is honored to be here to serve the South Orange and Maplewood School District and provided some background regarding his prior experiences in other districts similar to the South Orange Maplewood School District. He is attracted to the district because it is a community that chose diversity. Believes the district has a good reputation, evidenced by the people who are continuing to moving here. Also believes that success happens when an organization is collaborative, respectful of everyone and that interacts with everyone in it and maintains healthy relationships. Dr. Ficarra looks forward to working with the District and the community.

ITEM FOR ACTION

Motion made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, that the Board of Education approve the following:

3569. APPOINTMENT

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ANNUAL SALARY
Ficarra, Thomas	Acting Superintendent of Schools DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/1/17 8/24/17	\$196,584
	Interim Superintendent of Schools DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/25/17 6/30/18	\$196,584

Motion 3569 passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith NO: none.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Future Meetings - Read by Ms. Baker

The Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ to discuss policy, governance and district goals. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will attend a HIB (Harrassment, Intimidation and Bullying) training on Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. This is not a formal meeting and no action will be taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 8:15 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary